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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Stefan HACK et al.

Application No.: 09/609,714

Filed: June 30, 2000

For: VALUE CHAIN OPTIMIZATION
SYSTEM AND METHOD

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. To the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached. Also attached is an English translation of a portion of the "E-Business und Enterprise Application Integration" document, which is in German. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO -1449 Form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the

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documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 29, 2003

By: William J. Brogan
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